

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An inside door handle device of an automobile comprising:

a handle case connected with an operation handle, the handle case including a hand-operating recess defined therein, the recess being portion partitioned by a rising wall extending vertically from a bottom surface of the recess in a peripheral edge;

a cover body; [.]

~~for covering a fixing portion of that secures the handle case to a vehicle body of the automobile, wherein the cover body is elastically engaged and fixed to onto the surface side of the handle case, composing a the bottom wall surface of the hand-operating recess portion;~~

a hollow portion formed on the rising wall of extending vertically from the bottom surface of the hand-operating recess portion;

an engaging step portion formed in a bottom wall of the hollow portion; and

~~an engaging leg for release operation, formed in and extending from the cover body, the engaging leg including:~~

~~an engaging portion extending in an up and down direction from a plate-shaped main body portion of the cover body below to above, wherein the upper an end portion of which is the engaging portion elastically engaged with engages the engaging step portion; and~~

a hooking protrusion capable of being hooked from above, accommodated in the hollow portion in the engaging during an engaged state with the engaging step portion.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The inside door handle device according to claim 1, wherein the cover body includes a second engaging portion, for engaging with the handle case, formed on a peripheral edge opposing to the engaging leg ~~for release operation~~, and wherein the engaging leg ~~for release operation~~ pushes the cover body toward to the second engaging portion side by due to an elastic restoring force in during the engaged state of engagement.

3. **(New)** The inside door handle device according to claim 1, wherein the operation handle is pivotally connected to the handle case by a shaft.

4. **(New)** The inside door handle device according to claim 3, further comprising a lock lever pivotally connected to the shaft.

5. **(New)** The inside door handle device according to claim 1, wherein the wall extending vertically from the bottom surface of the recess defines a handle accommodating region and a residual region.

6. **(New)** The inside door handle device according to claim 1, wherein the cover body comprises:

a main body;

a rib extending toward the bottom surface of the recess;

the engaging leg;

a second engaging portion; and

a plurality of positioning pieces also extending toward the bottom surface of the recess.

7. (New) The inside door handle device according to claim 6, wherein the engaging leg is disposed on an end opposite to another end where the second engaging portion is disposed.